lending rate which were hitherto prescribed at 16.5 percent (fixed) cease to have a ceiling stipulation, the lending rates for such categories of borrowers will, however, be subject to a minimum of 16.0 percent. Reserve Bank of India has also restructured interest rates on bank loans for housing purposes. It is not contemplated to give effect to this measure retrospective to 1985. Short term loans to small scale industries upto Rs. 2 lakhs were not subject to this rate of 16.5 percent and as such the measure announced is not applicable to such borrowers.

Demand of the Uttar Pradesh National Saving Agents Association

2424. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum dated 25th June, 1988 addressed to the Prime Minister by the Uttar Pradesh National Savings Agents Association, Kanpur;

(b) if so, what are their demands relating to commission in Post Office Monthly Income Scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government on their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The associations demand for increasing the rate of agents' commission from 1 per cent to 2 per cent in respect of investments secured in Post Office Monthly Income Scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra was considered but not found acceptable.

2425. *Transferred to the 6th December, 1988).*

Appointment of Chairman of a Gramin Bank

2426. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that minimum scale IV officer of sponsoring bank will be the Chairman of a Gramin Bank;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which the scale II Officer of Bank of Baroda is being allowed to continue as Chairman of Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank even after expiry of his period and whether a new Chairman is going to join soon; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Chairman, Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank did not regularise daily-wage part-time messenger on seniority basis as advised by NABARD, if so, what action has been taken by Government against him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Pursuant to the decisions taken on the recommendations made by the Working Group on RRBs, sponsor banks have been advised to appoint Scale IV/V Officers as Chairmen in RRBs. The existing Chairmen however have not to be displaced till the expiry of their term. On the recommendations of Bank of Baroda, sponsor bank of Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, a scale IV Officer had been selected for appointment as Chairman of the Bank. However, the selected officer could not assume charge due to certain unavoidable reasons and another suitable officer is being selected.

(c) Bank of Baroda has reported hat regularisation of daily-waged art-time messengers was delayed lue to certain technical objections aised by the local Employment Exchange. These have since been sorted out and appointment of regular nessengers have been made as per iorms laid down by NABARD.

Indian Cost Accounts Service Officers

2427. SHRI HARI SINGH:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the Indian Cost Accounts Service was constituted and which authority administers the same;

(b) how many officers of the service have stayed for more than four years at one place in the same organisation;

(c) how the service would be made effective without the rotation of officers; and

(d) what are the criteria involved for deputation of officers from the service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) The Indian Cost Accounts Service was constituted in September 1978. This service is administered by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure).

(b) 11 officers as on date.

(c) As far as possible, the policy of rotation of officers is followed. However, due to a general shortage of officers in the service, rotation of officers is being done keeping in view the administrative requirements of the participating organisations.

(d) In view of the general shortage of officers in the Indian Cost Accounts Service, generally officers empanelled by the Department of Personnel and Training for Central deputation are considered for deputation. Where, however, requests for deputation are received direct, these cases are decided keeping the overall interest of the Service, seniority of the officer concerned, and the job requirements of the post.

Foreign Exchange spent on Import of Rifampicin

2428. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that $209 per kg. are being spent on import of intermediate of the drug Rifampicin;

(b) whether the drug Rifampicin is available at $150 per kg.;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the difference is being over-invoiced and being siphoned off as foreign exchange from the country; and

(d) how have the producers now started importing Rifa-S instead of 3 Formly Rifa-SV without specific approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The import of drug intermediate 3 Formly Rifamycin SV has been noticed at Bombay Airport at the rate of US Dollar 190 to 197 (CIF).

(b) The import of the drug Rifampicin B.P. at the rate of US Dollar 250 per kg. has been noticed. Import at the rate of US Dollar 150 per kg. has not been noticed at Bombay Airport.